

# Cordell Hull Tailwater

## Conservation Opportunity Area



The **Cordell Hull Conservation Opportunity Area (COA)** is centered around the Cordell Hull Dam, one of the numerous dams along the Cumberland River in Tennessee. This dam is located just upstream from Carthage, Tennessee. The waters below dams, commonly referred to as tailwaters, must be carefully managed as they tend to be cold and low in oxygen. Management efforts must often be designed specifically to address this problem.

As the Cumberland River exits the dam, the cold water discharge creates a river habitat that allows for one of the best cold water fisheries in middle Tennessee. This fishery supports impressive numbers and sizes of sauger, walleye, and striped bass that are caught by anglers in the upper reaches of the tailwater.

Downstream from the reservoir, suitable habitat conditions also exist for the diverse mussel population located in this portion of the Cumberland River. Native mussel species found within this COA include the Dromedary Pearlymussel, Pink Mucket, White Heelsplitter, and Hickorynut Mussel.

Tailwater management is often a balancing act between different types of habitat needs. Colder water can degrade or reduce suitable habitat for native mussels and some fish species as well. Partnership efforts to monitor and maintain different resource values are critical to long-term conservation success.

In addition to its many freshwater resources, the Cordell Hull COA contains many karst formations and features, including numerous caves. These caves provide habitat to a number of bat species of Greatest Conservation Need. These include the Gray Bat, Little Brown Bat, Northern Myotis, Indiana Bat, and Tri-colored Bat.

### Public Lands within the COA

Cordell Hull Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Old Hickory WMA



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**Cordell Hull Dam cold water discharges provide habitat for one of the best cold water fisheries in middle Tennessee, supporting Walleye and Striped Bass, among others.**

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Top to bottom: [Striped Bass](#) - Steven G. Johnson, [Wikimedia Commons](#); [Round Hickorynut Mussel](#) - Kendall Moles, USFWS/next page: [Hibernating Tri-colored Bat covered in frost](#) - Scott Dykes, TWRA

# Cordell Hull Conservation Opportunity Area

## Partnerships

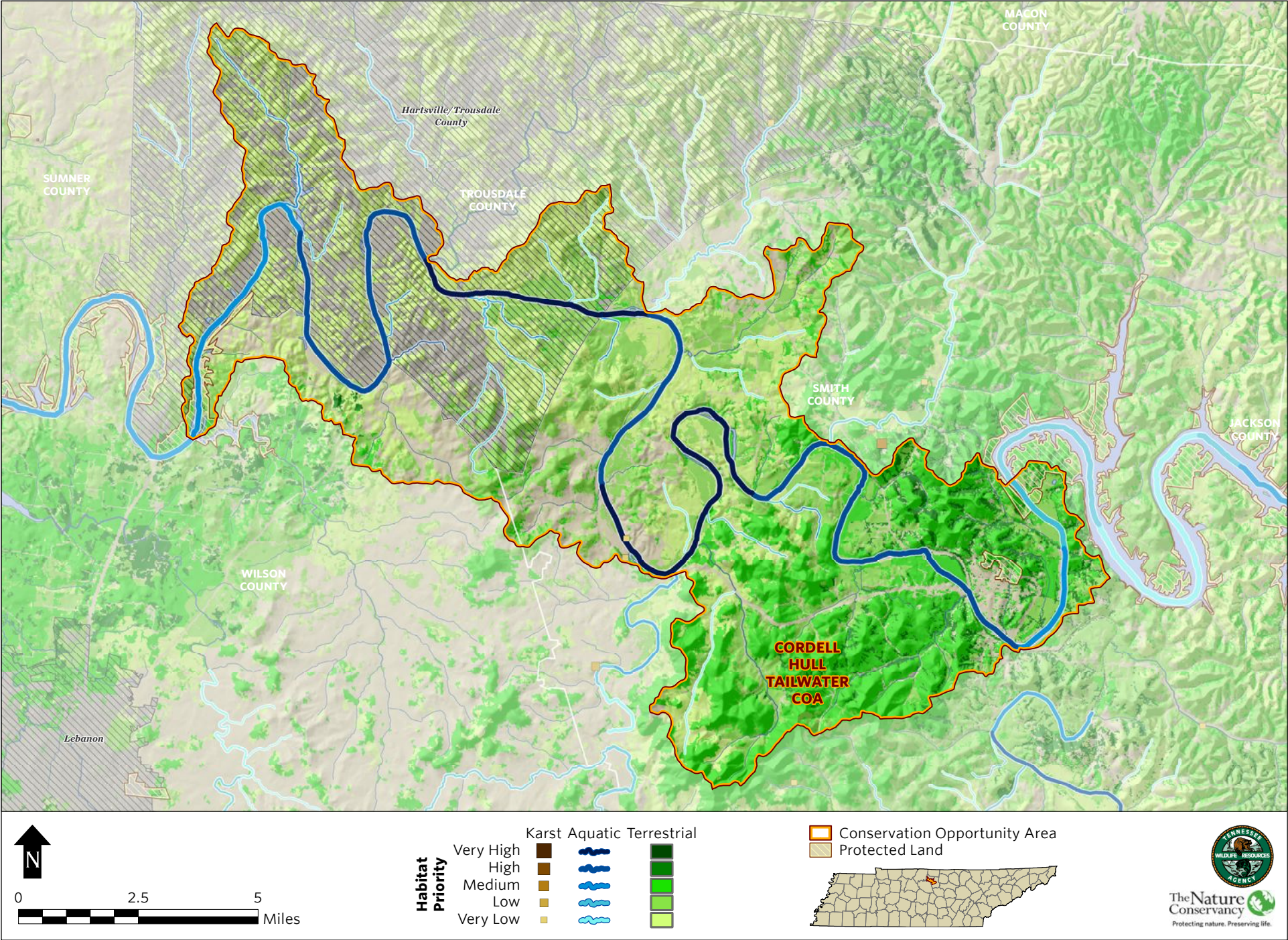
TWRA will collaborate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, the Cumberland River Compact, and other partners to implement conservation projects in the Cordell Hull COA, particularly for the benefit of freshwater species and cave and karst habitats.



Desired Change	Units
+ Use government funded incentive programs to encourage willing private landowners to restore critical land units and protect aquatic resources.	numbers
+ Restore pasture or other agricultural lands to appropriate ecological systems.	acres
+ Improve knowledge of the geographical distribution of GCN species and/or habitat changes through scientific surveys.	projects
+ Increase acres under permanent conservation management in critical units of habitat.	acres
✓ Conduct research on life history and ecological needs of target species to establish guidelines for determining population viability.	projects
✓ Continue propagation of imperiled mollusks for release to supplement endangered populations within the COA.	animals
✓ Develop standards for instream-flow regimes that establish minimum water levels required for target species during critical periods and for maintenance of habitat quality.	reviews

To learn more about the Cordell Hull Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact:  
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CORDELL HULL TAILWATER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa Group	Scientific & Common names
Bat	Myotis grisescens (Gray Bat)
Bat	Myotis lucifugus (Little Brown Bat)
Bat	Myotis septentrionalis (Northern Myotis)
Bat	Myotis sodalis (Indiana Bat)
Bat	Perimyotis subflavus (Tri-colored Bat)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Aquila chrysaetos (Golden Eagle)
Bird	Caprimulgus vociferus (Whip-poor-will)
Bird	Chaetura pelagica (Chimney Swift)
Bird	Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)
Bird	Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	Euphagus carolinus (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	Geothlypis Formosa (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	Grus americana (Whooping Crane)
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Bird	Hylocichla mustelina (Wood Thrush)
Bird	Icteria virens (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	Icterus spurius (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	Lanius ludovicianus (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	Parkesia motacilla (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	Scolopax minor (American Woodcock)
Bird	Setophaga cerulea (Cerulean Warbler)
Bird	Setophaga discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Vermivora cyanoptera (Blue-winged Warbler)
Bivalve	Actinonaias ligamentina (Mucket)
Bivalve	Dromus dromas (Dromedary Pearlymussel)
Bivalve	Fusconaia subrotunda (Longsolid)
Bivalve	Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket)
Bivalve	Lasmigona complanata complanata (White Heelsplitter)
Bivalve	Ligumia recta (Black Sandshell)
Bivalve	Obovaria olivaria (Hickorynut)
Bivalve	Plethobasus cyphus (Sheepnose)
Bivalve	Pleurobema cordatum (Ohio Pigtoe)
Bivalve	Pleurobema rubrum (Pyramid Pigtoe)
Bivalve	Pleurobema sintoxia (Round Pigtoe)
Fish	Acipenser fulvescens (Lake Sturgeon)
Mammal	Neotoma magister (Allegheny Woodrat)
Plant	Allium tricoccum (Ramps)
Plant	Cerastium velutinum var. velutinum (Velvety Cerastium)
Plant	Elymus svensonii (Svenson's Wild-rye)
Plant	Geranium robertianum (Herb-robert)
Plant	Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Plant	Paysonia perforata (Spring Creek Bladderpod)
Plant	Physaria globosa (Short's Bladderpod)
Plant	Stellaria fontinalis (Water Stitchwort)
Subterranean - Arachnid	Anthrobia mammouthia ((a cave obligate spider))
Subterranean - Arachnid	Chitrella archeri ((a cave obligate pseudoscorpion))

CORDELL HULL TAILWATER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa Group	Scientific & Common names
Subterranean - Arachnid	Liocranoides unicolor ((a cave obligate spider))
Subterranean - Crustacean	Caecidotea bicrenata bicrenata ((a cave obligate isopod))
Subterranean - Crustacean	Stygobromus exilis (Central Kentucky Cave Obligate)
Subterranean - Fish	Typhlichthys subterraneus (Southern Cavefish)
Subterranean - Insect	Batriasymmodes quisnamus ((a cave obligate beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Pseudanophthalmus cumberlandus ((a cave obligate beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Pseudosinella hirsuta (Hirsute Cave Springtail)
Subterranean - Millipede	Scoterpes ventus (Eastern Tennessee Cave Millipede)

CORDELL HULL TAILWATER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
<b>Natural habitats</b>	
Southern Interior Low Plateau Dry-Mesic Oak Forest	14431
South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest	7561
South-Central Interior Small Stream and Riparian	331
Nashville Basin Limestone Glade and Woodland	261
South-Central Interior Large Floodplain	70
Central Interior Calcareous Cliff and Talus	20
<b>Semi-natural habitats</b>	
Pasture	1753
Cropland	1331
Old Field / Successional	931
Aquatic Habitat Type	Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Headwaters and Streams	12
Large River	48